



# SPORT CLIMBING AUSTRALIA - 2024 CATEGORISATION POLICY

Reviewed Nov 2023

## 1. BACKGROUND

1. SCA is required to nominate athletes to the AIS for categorisation against a sport specific National Athlete Categorisation Framework.
2. The SCA National Categorisation Framework is shown as Table 1.

## 2. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

1. The National Athlete Categorisation Framework provides a clear and consistent basis, both within the Sport System and across sports to:
  - a. Identify athletes with the greatest potential to contribute to Australia's performance targets at pinnacle events (e.g., Olympic/Paralympic and World Championships).
  - b. Identify those athletes that have the will and want to win and can perform when it counts.
  - c. Inform the prioritisation of support to these athletes; and
  - d. Track athlete performance over time.

## 3. TERMS USED

<b>BME</b>	Benchmark Event (e.g., World Championship)
<b>HPP</b>	High Performance Program
<b>IFCS</b>	International Federation of Sport Climbing
<b>IPP</b>	Individual Performance Plan
<b>NPPM</b>	National Performance Pathway Manager
<b>SCA</b>	Sport Climbing Australia
<b>SCA CSP</b>	Sport Climbing Australia Categorisation Selection Panel
<b>TID</b>	Talent Identification
<b>WITTW</b>	What it Takes To Win

#### **4. CATEGORISATION PANEL**

1. Athlete categorisation will be determined by the SCA Categorisation Selection Panel (SCA CSP). This SCA CSP comprises key members of the SCA High Performance Program and the SCA Performance Pathways Program. The composition of the SCA CSP ensures the knowledge and capability required to make informed athlete categorisation decisions.
2. For each round of categorisation, the SCA NPPM will chair the SCA CSP.
3. The SCA CSP is subject to change due to the nature of change within staff. The SCA Chair will notify the SCA membership of any changes in membership of the SCA CSP via an announcement on the SCA website at the earliest opportunity.

The SCA CSP shall be made up of the following members:

1. National Performance Pathways Manager
2. The National Coach or equivalent
3. Talent Pathways Coach/s
4. External Independent Expert (AIS/NIN representative; non-voting)

#### **5. NOMINATION PROCESS AND TIMEFRAMES**

1. Athlete categorisation will be formally reviewed in or around November of each year (i.e., at the conclusion of the international competition season).
2. At this time, athletes may be added, removed, or moved to a different category.
3. Categorisation of athletes does not imply selection of those athletes to SCA National Squads or Teams. These are governed by separate selection criteria available on the SCA website. Equally, non-categorisation of athletes does not mean that they will be excluded from selection to SCA National Squads or Teams.
4. Athletes will remain in an Athlete Category until such time as they are moved or transitioned out.
5. Athletes must continue to demonstrate progression and improvement in areas of performance that shall be identified in their IPP. Athletes who fail to progress may be removed from the Athlete Categories at the sole discretion of SCA.

6. The SCA CSP may at its discretion, request a review of an athlete at other times (e.g. following a benchmark event or if an athlete is not actively training or demonstrating the required commitment levels as determined by SCA and the AIS.) Athletes may be excluded at any time from the Athlete Categorisation program at the absolute discretion of SCA.

## 6. ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

1. To be eligible for categorisation, an athlete must:
  - a. be an Australian citizen and eligible and available to represent Australia in international competition.
  - b. be a registered member of SCA.
  - c. have signed a current SCA Athlete Agreement.
  - d. have or commit to the development of an individual performance plan (IPP) approved by a relevant National Coach.
  - e. comply with all relevant SCA policies and rules as amended from time to time.
  - f. be in good financial standing with SCA.
  - g. comply with all anti-doping requirements of the IOC, SIA (Sports Integrity Australia) and SCA.
  - h. maintain the high standard of personal behaviour expected of an athlete representing Australia.
  - i. not bring themselves, the sport, SCA or any of its partners into disrepute.

## 7. EVENTS

1. The Categorisation Panel may nominate athletes for categorisation who compete in the following events.
  1. Olympic Games
  2. IFSC World Championships and Youth World Championships
  3. IFSC World Cup events
2. Events that are added or removed from the pinnacle event program will be included or removed at such time that this is communicated to SCA.

## 8. FACTORS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN CATEGORISATION

1. In determining an athlete's current performance standard and future Olympic podium potential the SCA CSP must consider the following factors in assessing athletes who have the best chance of contributing to the achievement of SA's High Performance goals:
  - a. recent international competition performance measured against the relevant Key Performance Indicators as set out in the table below.
    - i. when considering Emerging and Developing pathway athletes only, the SCA CSP reserves the right to consider an athlete who meets the Sport Climbing Australia Performance Matrix<sup>1</sup> but is yet to achieve an international performance.
  - b. any specific guidance from the AIS (as advised from time to time) on

Athlete Categorisation.

- c. during the 12 months prior to categorisation the extent to which the athlete has:
  - i. demonstrated a strong commitment to all national training and attended all national camps to which they were invited.
  - ii. If funded (i.e., any contribution to travel and accommodation), participated in all international competitions and camps for which selected to the best of their abilities.
2. An Athlete's compliance with the conditions set out in section 8.1, the SCA CSP may, at its sole discretion, use several additional factors in assessing an athlete's potential for future Olympic podium success, including (without limitation):
  - a. consistency in results and ability to repeat World Class results and deliver performances under pressure.
  - b. an Athlete's technical, physical and mental performance and ability as determined by the SCA CSP
  - c. an Athlete's ongoing commitment and application, including communication with national coaches, adherence to IPPs, motivation to succeed and use of available resources within a daily training environment to increase performance.
  - d. an Athlete's commitment to the level of training necessary to achieve the desired performance.
  - e. an Athlete's commitment level to the use of the SCA Athlete Management System (AMS);
  - f. the depth and quality of talent in each event here in Australia in comparison to our international competitors.
  - g. the athlete's age, with a particular and increased focus on Youth World Championship results in informing decisions for categorisation at Emerging, Developing and Podium Potential.
  - h. Noting that Sport Climbing is a demanding sport in terms of physical load on the body and hence has a relatively high incidence of injury. It is the responsibility of the athlete to notify the SCA of any serious injury that may be impairing their ability to compete during the 12-month period prior to categorisation. At its discretion, the SCA may choose to retain support to athletes when such injuries have impaired an athlete's ability to perform.
  - i. It is the responsibility of the athlete to notify the relevant SCA HPP team members of pregnancy as athletes may still be on track to contribute to national performance targets at the next BME. IPP should be adapted with a planned timeframe to return to sport and competition. At its discretion, the SCA may choose to retain support to athletes when pregnancy may have impaired an athlete's ability to perform.

## 9. ANNOUNCEMENT

1. Athletes will be advised in writing of their nomination and categorisation by the SCA NPPM.
2. Only those athletes that are currently categorised by the AIS shall be notified in writing of their non-nomination.

## **10. APPEALS PROCESS**

1. If an Athlete does not agree with their categorisation, they may seek a review of the categorisation decision in the following manner:
  - a. The Athlete must submit to the SCA NPPM within 7 days of the categorisation decision being published on the SCA website, or the athlete being notified directly of the SCA categorisation; whichever is the earlier, (Review Period), a written request for a review (Review Request). A Review Request must set out the reasons why the Athlete feels that the Panel's decision is incorrect. The Review Request must specifically address the criteria in the SCA Athlete Categorisation Guidelines.
  - b. The Appeal Panel will consider all Review Requests within 14 days of being appointed and shall inform the athlete/NPPM of its decision(s) as soon as practical after that.
  - c. The decision of the Appeal Panel shall be final. There shall be no further right of review or appeal.

## **11. AMENDMENTS TO CATEGORISATION POLICY**

1. SCA may amend this Categorisation Policy from time to time only after review and having been endorsed by the AIS. Amendments will be communicated by:
  - (i) Posting on the SA website; and
  - (ii) Email distribution to members of SCA's National Squads.
2. Any amendments to the Categorisation Policy shall take effect immediately on publication.

Table 1: SCA – Sport Specific Categorisation Criteria

	AIS Categorisation Criteria	SCA Categorisation Criteria	SCA Specific Progression timelines	
National Performance Pathway Categorisation	<b>PODIUM</b>	<p>Athletes have won a medal at an Olympic/Paralympic Games, World Championships or agreed event in the previous 24 months AND must be assessed against the sport-specific matrix as being capable to win a medal at the next Olympic/ Paralympic Games.</p>	<p>Athletes have achieved a medal at a BME in the last 12 months (BME = Olympic Games or World Championships)</p> <p>AND Has evidence of a sport specific skill set to medal at next Olympic Games as documented in the Sport Climbing Australia Performance Matrix<sup>4</sup></p>	<p>Undefined – until no longer meeting the KPIs for Podium categorisation.</p> <p>Must demonstrate improvement in the areas identified in the IPP</p>
	<b>PODIUM READY</b>	<p>Athletes have placed 4-8th at the most recent Olympic/Paralympic Games/World Championships OR by exception an agreed equivalent alternative (ie an objective, data verified performance or World Ranking) AND must be assessed against the sport-specific matrix as being capable to progress to PODIUM level, targeting a medal at the next Olympic /Paralympic Games.</p>	<p>Athletes have achieved a 4-8th at a BME in the last 12 months (BME = Olympic Games or World Championships)</p> <p>AND Has evidence of a sport specific performance profile demonstrating the potential to medal at the next Olympic Games as documented in the Sport Climbing Australia Performance Matrix<sup>4</sup></p> <p><i>AND athletes within the discipline of Speed must meet the performance metric as defined in Table 2: Speed – Gap to Worlds Best</i></p>	<p>Undefined – until no longer meeting the KPIs for Podium Ready categorisation, which includes being deemed capable of future Olympic Podium outcome established by evidence-based trajectory.</p> <p>Must demonstrate improvement in the areas identified in the IPP</p>
	<b>PODIUM POTENTIAL</b>	<p>Athletes will have achieved agreed performance benchmarks which, alongside international competition performances, reliably indicate their future potential for podium success. Athletes must be assessed against the sport-specific matrix as being capable to progress to at least PODIUM READY level within the agreed sport-</p>	<p>IFSC Open World Cup Semi Final (Boulder (top 20) / Lead (top 26)) OR,</p> <p>IFSC Open World Cup top-16 (Speed)<sup>1</sup> AND meets the performance metric as defined in Table 2: Speed – Gap to Worlds Best AND,</p> <p>Has evidence of a sport specific performance profile demonstrating the potential to</p>	<p>Up to 2yrs from the athlete’s most recent podium potential level result</p> <p>Must demonstrate improvement in the areas identified in the IPP</p>

	<p>specific matrix timeframes.</p>	<p>medal at a future Olympic Games or World Championship as documented in the Sport Climbing Australia Performance Matrix<sup>4</sup></p>	
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">DEVELOPING</p>	<p>Athletes have progressed through a reliable national talent confirmation phase and placed within a dedicated national development program.</p>	<p>IFSC Youth World Championships (Boulder) – Finalist (top 6) OR,</p>	<p>Up to 2yrs from the athlete’s most recent developing level result</p>
	<p>Athletes must be assessed against the sport-specific matrix as being capable to progress to at least PODIUM POTENTIAL level within the agreed sport-specific matrix timeframes.</p>	<p>IFSC Youth World Championships (Lead) – Finalist (top 8) OR,</p> <p>IFSC Youth World Championships (Speed)<sup>2</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> and meets the performance metric as defined in Table 2: Speed – Gap to Worlds Best OR,</p> <p>Any Open Speed athlete meeting the performance metric in competition as defined in Table 2: Speed – Gap to Worlds Best AND,</p> <p>Has evidence of a sport specific performance profile demonstrating the potential to medal at a future Olympic Games or World Championship as documented in the Sport Climbing Australia Performance Matrix<sup>4</sup></p>	<p>Must demonstrate improvement in the areas identified in the IPP</p>

<b>EMERGING</b>	<p>Athletes have been identified by an NSO via a valid and reliable talent identification profiling method (agreed in advance and with future podium potential characteristics identified) and are going through a set, time-limited talent confirmation period.</p>	<p>IFSC Youth World Championships (Boulder) – Semifinalist (top 20) OR</p> <p>IFSC Youth World Championships (Lead) – Semifinalist (top 26) OR,</p> <p>IFSC Youth World Championships (Speed)<sup>3</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> to-16<sup>th</sup> and meets the performance metric as defined in Table 2: Speed – Gap to Worlds Best OR,</p> <p>Any Open Speed athlete meeting the performance metric in competition as defined in Table 2: Speed – Gap to Worlds Best AND,</p> <p>Has evidence of a sport specific performance profile demonstrating the potential to medal at a future Olympic Games or World Championship as documented in the Sport Climbing Australia Performance Matrix<sup>4</sup></p>	<p>Up to 2yrs from the athlete’s most recent emerging level result</p> <p>Must demonstrate improvement in the areas identified in the IPP</p>
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**Table 2: Speed – Gap to Worlds Best**

		Podium Ready		Podium Potential <sup>3</sup>		Developing		Emerging			
		Actual	Gap	Actual	Gap	Actual	Gap	Actual	Gap		
		Time (secs)									
<b>Men</b>	<b>World Best (t)<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>105.00%</b>		<b>110.00%</b>		<b>105.00%</b>		<b>115.00%</b>		<b>122.50%</b>	
Open	4.951	5.199	0.248	5.446	0.495	5.694	0.743	6.065	1.114		
Junior	5.673			5.957	0.284	6.524	0.851	6.949	1.276		
Youth A	5.672			5.956	0.284	6.523	0.851	6.948	1.276		
Youth B	5.774			6.063	0.289	6.640	0.866	7.073	1.299		
<b>Women</b>	<b>World Best (t)<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>110.00%</b>		<b>115.00%</b>		<b>107.50%</b>		<b>120.00%</b>		<b>130.00%</b>	
Open	6.326	6.959	0.633	7.275	0.949	7.591	1.265	8.224	1.898		
Junior	7.654			8.228	0.574	9.185	1.531	9.950	2.296		
Youth A	7.526			8.090	0.564	9.031	1.505	9.784	2.258		
Youth B	7.616			8.187	0.571	9.139	1.523	9.901	2.285		

**References**

\*1 Sport Climbing Australia Performance Matrix to be developed throughout 2024 to inform 2025 Athlete Categorisation  
 \*2 The world best times are the average of the fastest 5 climbs from the 4 years prior to the date of release of the framework  
 \*3 Podium Potential Men (Open @ 110%, Youth @ 105%); Podium Potential Women (Open @ 115%, Youth @ 107.5%)